

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 06051 191016Z

14-11

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4659

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP (FULBRIGHT, WILLIAM)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SENATOR FULBRIGHT TO EGYPT

1. SENATOR FULBRIGHT AND TWO ASSOCIATES ARRIVED CAIRO JUNE 16 FOR DAY AND HALF VISIT TO EGYPT, LAST STOP ON TWO WEEK ARAB LEAGUE (AL) SPONSORED MIDDLE EAST TOUR. SENATOR WARMLY RECEIVED UPON ARRIVAL AT AIRPORT BY ARAB LEAGUE ASSISTANT SEC FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS DR. SAYYID NOFAL AND CHAIRMAN, PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ZAKARIA LUTFI GUMA'A AS WELL AS EMBASSY CONTROL OFFICER AND OTHER OFFICIALS OF ARAB LEAGUE AND PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY.

2. SENATOR BEGAN OFFICIAL PROGRAM WITH HOUR LONG MEETING WITH AL SYG MAHMUD RIAD AT AL SECRETARIAT; OTHERS ATTENDING MEETING WERE SENATOR'S ASSOCIATES THORPE AND KERN AND SENATOR'S AL ESCORT

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 06051 191016Z

OFFICER FARID. WE UNDERSTAND DISCUSSION REVOLVED AROUND

NECESSITY FOR CONCERTED ARAB EFFORT TO LAUNCH SUCCESSFUL INFORMATION CAMPAIGN IN US. SENATOR APPARENTLY MADE STRONG POINT THAT EFFORTS UP TO NOW HAVE BEEN TOO MEAGER TO PRODUCE POSITIVE RESULTS. RIAD AGREED, REPLYING THAT MONEY FOR THIS PURPOSE HAD BEEN MADE AVAILABLE DURING 1974 RABAT SUMMIT, THAT STUDIES ON HOW BEST TO PROCEED HAD BEEN UNDERTAKEN, BUT THAT NO FINAL DECISIONS HAD BEEN MADE. RIAD ADDED THAT HE FAVORED PROPOSAL THAT AL CONDUCT CAMPAIGN WITH ASSISTANCE OF AMERICAN FIRM EXPERIENCED IN MIDDLE EAST AND IN PUBLIC RELATIONS. MEETING FOLLOWED BY DINNER IN SECRETARIAT'S GARDEN HOSTED BY SYG RIAD; GUESTS INCLUDED MEMBERS OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY AND OFFICIALS OF ARAB LEAGUE.

3. ON JUNE 17 SENATOR'S DAY TAKEN UP ENTIRELY WITH ROUND TRIP TO ALEXANDRIA (2 1/2 HOUR DRIVE EACH WAY) FOR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SADAT. SENATOR ACCOMPANIED FROM CAIRO ONLY BY AL ESCORT OFFICER. SENATOR DESCRIBED MEETING TO CONTROL OFFICER AS "FORMAL AND PERFUNCTORY". SENATOR DISAPPOINTED THAT SADAT TOLD HIM "NOTHING NEW", BUT ALLOWED THAT PRESIDENT OBVIOUSLY PREOCCUPIED WITH MAKARIOS VISIT; OFFICIAL TALKS WERE DUE TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING FULBRIGHT'S APPOINTMENT. VP MUBARAK SAT IN ON MEETING, BUT REPORTEDLY SAID NOTHING FOR DURATION OF APPOINTMENT.

4. FOLLOWING RETURN FROM ALEXANDRIA, SENATOR MET AGAIN WITH AL SYG RIAD FOR ONE HOUR TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF AL PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORTS IN US. SENATOR'S OFFICIAL SCHEDULE CONCLUDED WITH SMALL, INFORMAL DINNER HOSTED BY MRS. EILTS (AMB. EILTS HAD BEEN RECALLED FOR CONSULTATIONS PREVIOUS DAY) AND ATTENDED BY CHARGE, AMB TO WASHINGTON GHORBAL AND PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY DEPUTY SPEAKER OTEIFI. SENATOR DEPARTED EARLY JUNE 18 FOR WASHINGTON.

5. SENATOR'S VISIT RECEIVED SUBSTANTIAL, ALTHOUGH NOT OVERWHELMING, PRESS COVERAGE. ALL THREE ARABIC DAILIES CARRIED FRONT PAGE STORIES JUNE 17 REPORTING SENATOR'S ARRIVAL AND REMARKS MADE DURING DAMASCUS PRESS CONFERENCE. STORIES NOTED THAT SOMALI FONMIN UMAR URTA, WHO REPORTEDLY HAPPENED TO BE TRANSITING CAIRO (FROM SOMALIA TO NIGERIA), GREETED SENATOR AT AIRPORT WITH COMMENDATIONS ON HIS "STANDS IN MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA OVER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 06051 191016Z

PAST THIRTY YEARS)". JUNE 18 AHAM AND AKHBAR CARRY THREE COLUMN FRONT PAGE PHOTOS OF SADAT GREETING FULBRIGHT; NO ACCOMPANYING ARTICLES. IN VIEW ONGOING MAKARIOS STATE VISIT AND JUNE 17 ARRIVAL OF ROMANIAN FONMIN, FACT THAT TWO OF THREE PAPERS CHOSE TO FRONT-PAGE PHOTO OF FULBRIGHT IS INDICATIVE OF IMPORTANCE WITH WHICH GOE VIEWED SENATOR'S VISIT. MAESTRONE

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